



Oh, that explains it



Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

[illegible]

November 2006



HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND PERSONNEL

Questions & Answers

1. Q: Do teachers need to be highly qualified to teach Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements?

A: Yes. Districts are required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to now have 100% of their teachers of core academic subjects highly qualified. This means that in addition to holding state certification, the teacher must hold a major or the equivalent of a major in the content, or pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) subject area content exam, or complete one of the High Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE) options for demonstrating that he/she is highly qualified.

Long before NCLB was passed, Michigan law required that teachers be appropriately assigned to teach within the grade level and subject area endorsement(s) indicated on their teaching certificates. For example, only a teacher with a secondary certificate with endorsements in mathematics and Biology (grades 7-12) should be assigned to teach math and/or Biology courses in grades 7-12. It would be inappropriate to assign this teacher to teach Chemistry, Physics, or General Science.

In order to assist local districts in the appropriate placement of teachers, the Michigan Department of Education has developed a document entitled "Classes Which Can Be Taught by Holders of Various Endorsements as Impacted by NCLB." This document is available at the following URL:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/What can be taught composite TQ CI07355 A112320 7 123436 7.d oc](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/What_can_be_taught_composite_TQ_CI07355_A112320_7_123436_7.d oc)

2. Q: Does a middle school teacher have to be "highly qualified" at the high school level in order for students to receive high school credit?

A: In order for a student to receive credit, a teacher must be appropriately endorsed and highly qualified in the subject, whether elementary or secondary certificated. The secondary teaching certificate authorizes a person to teach in subject area endorsements in grades 6-12, and the elementary certificate authorizes a person to teach in grades K-5 (all subjects) and grades 6-8 in subject area endorsements.

3. Q: Does a teacher, teaching a math-related class such as accounting need to be highly qualified in mathematics for students to receive their 4th math-related credit?

A: No. If the accounting or other math-related class is to be counted as a student's 4th math-related credit, the teacher does not need to be highly qualified in mathematics. However, the school through their internal record keeping system should record the student has fulfilled their 4th math credit, given the student's transcript would list the accounting course.

If a student wants to take a math course like pre-calculus and have it count as their 4th credit, the teacher would need to be highly qualified in mathematics.

4. Q: Will there be enough highly qualified teachers available to meet the need in required course credit areas?

A: While schools currently have math and science teachers and require various math and science credits for graduation, the new law requires all students to complete specific math, science and social studies credits. Hiring and scheduling continue to remain the responsibility of local schools and districts.

In addition, post-baccalaureate individuals enrolled in alternative preparation programs who can demonstrate competency in the content by holding a major in the content or passing the MTTC content examination can be employed to teach the merit curriculum. Such individuals would have three years to complete their teacher preparation programs and still be considered highly qualified under NCLB.

Teachers who are currently assigned to teach mathematics or science classes who need additional training to teach the more rigorous content can take advantage of professional development opportunities offered by various entities and programs such as Michigan Virtual University, Teacher-to-Teacher, Title II A(3) Higher Education Professional Development Grant projects, and courses offered online through institutions of higher education.